

555 Bridge Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07104  
April 25, 1992

Martina Torres Felo  
513 Seventh Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey 07107

Dear Martina:

I am writing this letter to you because sometimes the written word forces both its writer and its reader to focus first before reading.

I also admit that we have come to know each other sufficiently that I believe you deserve an explanation of my unavailability on your election day.

First I would like to say that I believe you ran a good campaign and you were an outstanding candidate. I also believe that Ramon ran an outstanding campaign. If I was to compare your campaign this year with Tina's campaign, I would have to say that your receiving 1000 more votes than she did last year speaks for itself. I am proud to have supported your candidacy and I only regret that I wasn't able to help you on election day.

My one and only reason for not being available on election day had to do with my job. Under normal circumstances I would have leave the detail of that reason in the simple form of the previous sentence and go into my apology. However, I have come to understand that my "absence" has taken a "meaning" above and beyond anything that I had ever intended it to take. Therefore, I will go into some specifics first.

As you may or may not have known, on March 25 I began an salaried association with a law firm. For 10 months prior to that I was attempting to set up a solo practice. However, both my timing and my capitalization were poor and so I sought and accepted the position. During the first three weeks "they took it easy" on me as I was reading files that I inherited. The first week that I was asked to give a "full performance" was the same week of your election.

As late as Monday night April 6th (at the election eve meeting), I felt that I would still be able to give you some hours on Tuesday morning and late Tuesday afternoon and evening. I knew then that I had two depositions to handle the next day, but since deps generally average two hours, I still felt confident of giving you some quality time that day.

But the second dep lasted six hours in North Brunswick. I didn't get back to Newark until after 7:00 PM. I was able then to get my family out to vote (I was the first to vote at 7:00 AM). But I was tired and upset at what had happen so I didn't return to

the poll and obviously did not go to the Flanboyan that evening.

I apologize, in part for not being available, but more for not letting you know. While it was unfortunate that I couldn't give you any time on election day, as a volunteer I gave you the most help that I could for the entire length of your '92 campaign. I am glad that I did it and would consider doing it again. But I regret that I could not be with you on the 7th.

I again repeat that what I just explained to you is the only reason I was not around on election day.

I understand from some participants of the campaign that a "minister spin" was read into my absence by some. While I can understand how they arrived at that point of view (politics can be dirty), there is simply no basis to it.

While I sensed that the alliances with other groups were shifting in the sand, I also expressed those concerns with either you or Ramon. I agreed with you during that last week of campaigning that the commitment by Gaddy's people was not convincing. I had also strongly emphasized to Ramon that the relationship with Affilio needed attention. However, I sensed these changes based on political experience and not on advanced notice.

At most I will take responsibility for the 15 vote shortfall that I committed to the campaign from Forest Hill Presbyterian. While I think that pointing fingers is not productive, I alone did not produce a 467 vote shortfall.

I would like to put this in a positive perspective. Dennis LaScala became a board member upon the death of Ray Stabile. Stabile successfully became a Board member on his third try.

While I can certainly understand if you thought the worst of me before this letter, I hope that you can appreciate that I supported you. Congratulations on a fine effort that I hope you will take positive advantage of in the future. If you want my help, I'll do what I can.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Santora